citizen to inform the Government of India about his acquisition of foreign citizenship.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Signing of Contract by Indian Embassy with American Public Relations Consultant

*317. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen reports in the Statesman of 26th May, 1987 to the effect that the Indian Embassy in Washington has signed a contract with an American Public Relations Consultant, Steve Martindale; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The report in the Statesman of 26th May 1987 to the effect that the Indian Embassy was on the verge of signing a contract with an American Public Relations Consultant, Steve Martindale is entirely baseless. This was, in fact, termed as such by an official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs on 27th May, 1987. The comment of the official spokesman was reported by the Statesman on 28th May 1987.

Attack on Indian Red Cross Official in Sri Lanka

*318. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Red Cross official who went to Jaffna was shot at by Sri Lankan armed forces; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for the safety of Indian Red Cross officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Extradition Treaties

*319. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has entered into extradition treaties with any countries so far;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the names of the countries with which such extradition treaties are proposed to be entered into?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With Bhutan, Nepal, USA, Uganda, Belgium and Canada.

(c) UK, FRG, and Turkey.

Animals in Wildlife Sanctuaries

*320. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been an increase or decrease in the number of animals in the wildlife sanctuaries during the last two years;

(b) if there had been a decrease, the reasons, therefor and the names of those sanctuaries; and

(c) whether Government will take any measures to increase the penalties and punishments for the poachers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b) Enumeration of animals is not done in all wildlife sanctuaries of the country. The few that have undertaken this task have reported an increase.

(c) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for a range of penalties and or punishment. The need for enhancing there penalties|punishment including a substantial minimum are under consideration in the context of amendments to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

राष्ट्रीय "पांचांग "शकाब्द"

@2613. **डा० रत्नाकर पांडेय** : क्या **गह** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकारी जन संचार माध्यम द्वारा राष्ट्रीय पंचांग "शकाब्द" का प्रयोग न किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ख) क्या अंग्रेजी पंचांग के अनुसार अनिश्चित काल तक काम होता रहेगा; और

(ग) क्या राष्ट्रीय पंचांग हमेशा दूसरे स्थान पर ही रहेगा ?

गह मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : (क) से (ग) शक संवत जिसका राष्ट्रीय कैलेण्डर के लिए अपनाया गया है, का ग्रेगोरियन कैलेण्डर के साथ कुछ शासकीय प्रयोजनों के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है । जब तक दुनिया का कोई नया कैलेण्डर सामान्यत: स्वीकार और लागू नहीं होता तब तक शासकीय प्रयोजनों के लिए अन्य देशों में प्रचलित ग्रेगोरियन कैलेण्डर को प्रयोग करना आवश्यक होगा ताकि भ्रांति न हो ।

Motor accidents in Delhi

@@2614. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of motor accidents which took place in Delhi during the last 3 years and what is the number of cases of payment of compensation to the victims of motor accidents lying pending before the various tribunals for the last three years; year-wise; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to expedite disposal of cases of claims for and payment of compensation keeping in view of the humanitarian aspect for damages suffered by persons who got handicapped during such accidentts and the widows of the victims of these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Requisite figures are mentioned below:

Year	No. of accident
1984	5809
1985	6254
1986	6547

No. of cases pending for compensation before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunals in Delhi are indicated below:—

Pending for one year . .	7608
Pending for two years .	5709
Pending for three years . .	4421

(b) In addition to the six Motor Accident Claims Tribunals already functioning in Delhi, Lok Adalats have also decided a number of cases of compensation to the victims of Motor accidents. During the five sittings of the Lok Adalats from 6.10.1985 to 30.11.1985, a total of 570 cases were decided and Rs. 2,15,16.350|- has been awarded to the victims of motor accidents in Delhi.

*पूर्वत: अतारांकित प्रश्न 2108, 13 अगस्त, 1987 से स्थानान्तरित ।

@@Previously Unstarred Question 1869 transferred from the 12th August, 1987.